

for his tireless work on behalf of the numerous philanthropic causes the Yankees are involved in.

Mr. William Denis Fugazy of Fugazy International also deserves mention. I know Bill Fugazy. He has been the general chairman of this dinner since its inception. Through Bill Fugazy's leadership, many young people have been given a chance to participate in some of the youth programs supported by the Yankees. The opportunity to participate in these programs helps young people develop skills which they can carry with them always. It is good to see sports franchises like the New York Yankees offer their communities more than just baseball games, and associate themselves with quality people like Bill Fugazy.

This year's dinner also honored the late great Mickey Mantle. All of us know of his well chronicled, storied career. Many of us followed his achievements on the field when we were kids. From his exciting rookie year through his triple crown, and MVP years, all of the World Series in which he participated, to his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame, Mantle provided many exciting memories for young and old fans alike. Few would disagree that he will remain the Pride of the Yankees, and all of baseball.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the victims of the Armenian genocide, the first such crime against a people in the 20th century.

On April 24, 1915, 81 years ago today, the Ottoman Turkish Empire began the systematic rounding up and slaughter of Armenian intellectuals, clergy, businessmen, and other leaders of the community. Ultimately the horror claimed 1½ million lives and resulted in the exile of Armenians from much of their historic homeland in Asia Minor.

I like to think that some good can come from even the most horrifying evil. In this case a large segment of the Armenian diaspora, banished from its ancestral home, reached these shores. They and their descendents have immeasurably enriched the United States of America. In remembering the martyrdom of their fellow Armenians eight decades ago, we are also paying tribute to Armenian-Americans—to their patriotism, and to their many contributions to this land of freedom.

Mr. President, unfortunately there are some who would trivialize the Armenian genocide or even attempt to deny that it ever took place, just as there remain a twisted few who continue to deny the Holocaust that claimed 6 million Jews.

But, Mr. President, there is no denying the undeniable. The Armenians in the Ottoman Empire were not murdered because they were talented businessmen. They were not butchered because their community produced outstanding intellectuals. They were not slaughtered for any socioeconomic rea-

son, however perverted. No, the Armenians were murdered because they were Armenians. This Mr. President, was genocide.

Unfortunately, genocide is a recurring fact of the 20th century. Fifteen years after the Armenian genocide occurred, Stalin began his insane collectivization that decimated the Ukrainian people.

I have already mentioned the Nazis' extermination of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust.

The 1970's witnessed Cambodia's killing fields where a significant proportion of the Khmer people perished.

The 1990's have seen the mass murder of Tutsis in Rwanda and the unspeakable horrors perpetrated upon Bosnian Muslims, cynically given the euphemism, ethnic cleansing.

Mr. President, we must endeavor to ensure that these vile deeds are never repeated yet another time. The first step in that process is to ensure that the memory of genocide is kept alive so that the truth will prevail over the purveyors of historical lies. The Holocaust memorial Museum here in Washington is serving a vital function in that regard.

Similarly, the proposed Armenian Genocide Memorial Museum of America promises to be an important vehicle for preserving and disseminating the truth.

On this solemn day of remembrance, I join millions of other Americans in commemorating the martyrdom of the Armenians and praying that their eternal sacrifice shall not have been in vain.

"LEGISLATING THE REVOLUTION"—HISTORY OF THE 104TH CONGRESS' FIRST 100 DAYS

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, having written two books myself, I appreciate the great time and energy involved in preparing, researching, and writing a book, especially one recounting a complex series of historical events. As an enthusiast and lifelong student of history, I am pleased to bring to my colleagues' attention "Legislating the Revolution," by James G. Gimpel. Jim is a native of western South Dakota. His thorough recounting of the Contract With America during the first 100 days of this Congress so impressed me that I hope my colleagues will take the opportunity to read it.

The book is fair, factual, and comprehensive. Appealing to a spectrum of readers ranging from the social scientist to the concerned citizen, Jim's book already is being used in college classrooms across the country as a resource and reference book. After countless interviews with Members of Congress, congressional staff, interest group representatives, pollsters and party leadership, the product is a detailed, thoughtful chronological record of the events which shaped the so-called Contract With America. The

book examines the many individuals who, behind the scenes, created the Contract itself and the campaign that played such a significant part in the Republican takeover of Congress in November 1994. The first 100 days of the 104th Congress may have been history in the making, but the period prior to the Contract With America was a new and equally historic era. Republicans had not controlled both Houses of Congress simultaneously for more than 40 years. The late House Speaker Tip O'Neil coined the famous phrase, "All politics is local." The Contract With America challenged that notion by nationalizing the congressional elections and unifying the Republican Party around common goals.

Jim Gimpel's examination of Republican and Democratic National Committee fundraising and campaigning, party and committee leadership, Southern Democratic influence and the mass electoral revolution, presents readers with a cornucopia of information and an understanding of the historic scope of the 1994 Congressional Revolution. He offers an overview of the efforts to pass the Contract in Congress, examining voting records and providing political analysis. The detailed accounts of the voting and the behind-the-scenes efforts made on both sides of the aisle paint a dramatic picture of the grueling give-and-take that produced unprecedented legislation. Through a series of theory testing, graphical representation, voting distributions, and the Perot factor, Gimpel thoroughly explains the background and the planks of the Contract With America, and forecasts the implications of these efforts on future elections and legislation.

Although Jim Gimpel covers each plank in the Contract with America, I would like to highlight several areas of personal interest, first, the Fiscal Responsibility Act and second, the Personal Responsibility Act. Jim's analysis of the balanced budget amendment and term limits—the Fiscal Responsibility Act—was outstanding. Jim offers a truly compelling and easy to grasp explanation of the importance of a balanced budget for the United States. As more and more Americans are beginning to realize, if the Federal Government continues to spend beyond our means, more and more of our taxes must finance debt repayment, instead of important programs such as agriculture, education, Social Security, and veterans programs. Jim brings this vital point home clearly and effectively.

He is equally clear and effective in his coverage of the welfare reform debate. As we all know, the original intent of the welfare system was to provide a simple safety net for the needy. The reality is the opposite: The current system acts as a harness holding down the recipients from taking personal responsibility for their own lives. Jim's tracking of the history, legislation, debates, and votes that produced the

House welfare reform bill—Personal Responsibility Act—is precise and accurate. I know my constituents would find this chapter of particular interest, if not shocking. South Dakotans work hard every day to provide for their families without Government assistance. They pride themselves on hard work, but as the book points out, the failed welfare system promotes costly dependency. Jim offers more than just a legislative history of this sensitive issue. He demonstrates the basic social need that requires Congress to act on this problem.

The importance of history cannot adequately be underscored. History—the understanding of history—is our map of not only our past, but also our future. “Legislating the Revolution” is a compelling map of an exciting past and an extraordinary future for policymakers and voters. It is a must read for every American.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today, I join with many of our colleagues in commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Today marks the exact day when 200 of the Armenia's academic, political, and religious leaders were taken from the city of Istanbul in 1915. The ability of Armenians to free themselves from the Ottoman Empire rested heavily on the plans and ideas of those who vanished. It was an ominous beginning to one of this century's darkest tragedies. This Senate should recognize and all Americans should remember, what occurred over there 81 years ago. That is why I stand here with my colleagues to urge an accurate remembrance of the past, of those who were slain by the Ottoman Turks, and plead that such hateful crimes against humanity never happen again. We stand in honor of those who were unable to take a stand 81 years ago today. We must try to heal the wounds of the past by remembering and recording the historical truths.

The Ottoman Empire's actions—deliberate, planned, and deceitful actions—against the Armenian people should be remembered for what it actually was—genocide. The Armenian genocide was a hateful act whose objective was focused on the systematic annihilation of a people, their heritage, their culture, their identity, and their future. It is unfortunate that in recent years historians and politicians alike have tried to soften the terms used to describe this heinous crime against humanity. What occurred involves deportation, slavery, the loss of basic human rights, and wholesale murder—all targeted deliberately and methodically against one ethnic group. The record is clear. Genocide is genocide. To shy away from recognizing the Armenian genocide is to ignore and deny the historic truth, and that would put at risk the harsh lessons that must be learned if we are to avoid repeating that tragic history. The Armenians remember, but

all must recognize and embrace the past, painful as it may be. It is said that the bitter pills of the past are the better tonics of a brighter future.

About 600,000 Americans who consider themselves to be Armenians live in the United States. Many are survivors of the genocide, or are the children of survivors. About 1.5 million Armenians were killed or died during the mass deportation which began in 1915 and continued for many years. Two-thirds of all Armenians in Turkey were killed. In the region of Anatolia and western Armenia, the entire community of Armenians was extinguished or deported.

It has been 81 years since that awful tragedy. Turkey has not apologized to the Armenians. That is unfortunate.

Armenians are a strong, resilient people, struggling to heal the wounds of the past. But the wounds cannot be sealed until the story is complete. Until the Armenian genocide is officially acknowledged, the wounds will remain unhealed and the lessons will not be firmly learned. We do not deny the brutal nature of the Holocaust to the Jewish-American community. We are coming to grips with the severe violence against the people of Bosnia. We should not deny the Armenian people a similar place in history. To do so would dishonor ourselves, and spoil accurate understanding of the past. It is in the best interest of the American people and the entire global community to remember the past accurately. That is why we commemorate and honor those who were affected by the Armenian genocide.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, April 23, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,106,372,425,943.99.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,291.37 as his or her share of that debt.

81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, today marks the 81st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. As Armenians gather worldwide today to commemorate the anniversary, I rise to pay tribute to the victims of this tragedy. Although some still refuse to recognize historical fact, there should be no doubt that the Armenian people suffered the first genocide of the modern age.

As many of my colleagues know, between the years 1915-23, 1.5 million Armenians were subjected to systematic extermination through a policy of deportation, torture, starvation, and massacre. At the time, the world recognized that the Ottoman Empire had committed a crime against humanity, though the term “genocide” would not be coined until years later. The United States condemned the brutal treat-

ment of the Armenians. The United States rendered humanitarian assistance to many of the survivors in the largest relief effort every organized by this country. Yet even with all the facts that we have before us, most of which have been compiled by U.S. sources, some still refuse to acknowledge that there was a genocide.

Most of us are willing to look history in the eye and see the danger of closing our eyes and hearts to the truth of the tragedy which took place. We will not cease in our efforts to remember what happened. This year, along with 25 of my colleagues, I signed a bipartisan letter urging the President to use the word “genocide” in his statement commemorating the anniversary. Mr. President, while nearly every other nation recognizes the Genocide, one nation still insists that the Genocide never happened—the Government of Turkey. As I have stated in the past, no responsibility for the history of the Genocide rests with either the Turkish people or their modern-day government. The Ottoman Empire, which committed the Genocide against the Armenians, has not existed since October 19, 1923. As Operation Desert Storm again demonstrated, Turkey is an important friend and partner to the United States, and we highly value our friendship with the Turkish Government and people. That friendship would not suffer from, and in fact, would be strengthened, by recognizing the fact of the Armenian Genocide.

At a time when the world is beset by problems, including acts of genocide, the United States cannot fail to send a unified message. Only by issuing a clear statement on genocide can the United States convey to the world our Nation's resolve and determination to prevent such crimes from recurring. We cannot allow history to dictate the future, but neither can we forget history nor turn our backs on the truth. On this 81st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, let all of us as Americans, even as we remember the tragic events of the past, rededicate ourselves to making sure it never happens again. Finally, I would add that President Clinton has just issued his statement commemorating the anniversary of the Genocide. It is unfortunate that unlike his statement in 1992, this year's statement does not use the historically correct word of “genocide” to describe what happened to the Armenian people from 1915 to 1923.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that our letter to the President be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER,
Washington, DC, April 23, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: This year marks the 81st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Armenian-Americans throughout the United States and the world will be commemorating this event on April 24th.